

In the Wake of the Game By GUS MALBERT

Doctor Ayers, owner of a sturdy right paw, master of all the sizzling slants in the secret chamber of the King of Chuck, uncoiled another evidence of supreme ability during an afternoon of torrid pastime in Newport News. He won, though forced to hold his opponents scoreless to gain the result, the best the Colts could do, being one counter, and that through the generosity of White Hope Matthews, the only fighting manager in the Virginia League.

The doctor merely added new leaves to the volume containing his record thus far. A mere trifling of thirteen salt water inhibitors waved frantically at the winding white streak as it crashed across the pan. A quartet of safe knocks was the sum total of the offensive prowess of the Mathewicks, and not an individual was allowed a pass, quite a dossy performance for one afternoon.

The doctor has carved a very appreciable niche for himself. It was his eighth consecutive win, and, glimming the statistical scrolls, we read that the doctor has lost just twice out of twelve starts. In one of the twelve starts he finished a game, going two innings to relieve Harry Griffin, and during those two innings held the foemen listless, though one run was checked against him. His record to date follows:

AYERS'S RECORD TO DATE.

	R. H.	S.O.	B.B.	
May 3	0	2	6	(Won).
May 8	5	6	7	(5 1-3 innings; lost).
May 13	4	8	7	(Lost).
May 15	1	0	2	(2 innings; won).
May 16	0	5	10	(Won).
May 23	5	9	8	(Won).
May 28	3	8	5	(Won).
May 31	1	7	6	(Won).
June 3	1	4	13	(Won).
June 10	1	8	12	(Won).
June 13	2	6	10	(Won).
June 17	0	4	13	(Won).
	23	67	99	10

Eliminating the two fractional games pitched and taking only into account the ten games started and finished by the Hillsdale strong man, he has been hit safely sixty-one times, has yielded seventeen runs, given nine bases on balls and struck out ninety. Putting these figures into averages, he has allowed 6.1 hits per game, has given 0.9 of a base on balls, has yielded 1.7 runs a game and struck out nine men for each nine innings he tossed to the catcher.

If Clark Griffith is really sending his scouts through the country looking for flingers, he might well turn his eye to the doctor, whom he let go on an optional agreement. We are not anxious to see Ayers leave Richmond just yet, but his kind of pitching will not remain in the Virginia League, and we are merely issuing a warning to the Washington manager that it would be well for him to exercise his option as early as possible. Ayers has won three games by shut-outs, and three by being counted on just once. As for his strike-out record, it beats the mark set by the redoubtable Walter Johnson. Taken by and large, Ayers may well clip his averages to date and paste them in his scrap-book.

To-morrow the Colts return, after their voyage abroad, and meet Buck Pressly and his Jungle dwellers. The Tigers have not been going as well as the ardent fans of Roanoke expected. They have slumped considerably, furnishing rather easy prey for Lee Garvin. But Pressly always has a punch stowed away somewhere, and no team in the league but would be willing to take a fall out of Richmond. Since Steve must send Charlie Strain after the game to-day in Newport News, Jim Vance will open here again against Roanoke.

Poor Charlie Shafer. With his club shot to pieces, unable to see a ray of the bright blue ahead, he nevertheless goes battling on and on, hoping that there may be a rift in the cloud. Charlie is looking for the guy who spilled that yarn about his having the best club in the league. If he could be given the general direction in which the purveyor of said information went, there might be something real newsy to relate.

We are confidentially advised that there will be no frost tonight.

Michael Lauria, an umpire officiating in a game of ball at New Haven, Conn., between the K. O. K.'s and the Junior Giants, made a decision against the home club, and the fans grabbed a razor and cut his throat. He will recover. Sort of a close shave for Lauria, and just one more reason why laying paving stones is a fine art compared to wearing the shield and mask.

"There is nothing sweeter," says Ella Wheeler Wilcox, "than to hear in the serene hour of a starlight night a gentle voice calling, 'Ames the esteemed paragrapher of this paper, and then adds as his reflection, 'Not up if it's a feller's girl's ma.' As a sporting proposition, how about the call on a starlit night when you've got three's and the other feller's got a full house?"

George Stallings has risen another peg. He topped Pittsburgh yesterday, and is now standing joyfully on the brink of the first division. If the ex-New Yorker can carry the Braves into the super company he will have accomplished what will be regarded as the impossible. With a unanimous verdict in the spring that he had the worst ball club ever in the National League, he clamped his cigar butt and went out to win ball games. He did. That's the final answer as to the merit of a team.

The Giants gained another lap on the Phils by winning from Cincinnati today. Charley Murphy's Cubs were beating Boston. They are already bragging that they will be in first place before they return from the Western invasion, and it isn't so far fetched, at that, with a gain of just two and one-half games to fill.

BEGINNING OF FIGHT AGAINST LOW RATES

State Rate Decisions in Supreme Court Regarded as Opening for Railroads.

Washington, June 17.—The state rate decisions which interest the states in the western coast railroads are regarded as some of the most important of a fight by the railroads against low rates.

Even tests of days or weeks will not satisfy lawyers on either side to sustain the claim that the state rate decisions, the Supreme Court having ruled that the railroads must invent a more detailed system of bookkeeping.

It has been estimated that the Interstate Commerce Commission will not complete its validation within five years. In the meanwhile, it has caused an outcry that some railroads will seek to convince the public they have accurate figures to show confirmation.

Within the week after the Minnesota rate decision was announced, the Northern and Western lines in the St. Paul area, which claimed the state law was unconstitutional, filed suit in the state courts against the railroads.

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collect data before the Interstate Commerce Commission concludes its validation of all railroad property in the United States with sufficient accuracy to satisfy the court that proper valuations have been agreed at a new section. Justice Hughes made it clear that the court will not accept generalizations or opinions as to valuations and expenses.

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The unusual situation of low rates being applicable to some roads in a state and not applicable to others was pronounced by Justice Hughes in the Missouri rate decision as being entirely constitutional.

New Relay Record

Boston, June 17.—A new world's record for a four-mile relay race was made here to-day by members of the team of the Boston Athletic Association, when they covered the distance in 17 minutes 51.45 seconds. The best previous athletic club record was 18 minutes 8.45 seconds, by the Irish-American Athletic Club, of New York.

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